

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I feel that we should keep the present rules on media ownership. I know they say they can improve programing, but just within my radio listening area I have 2 stations owned by the same company that carry the same programing with little or no local news. Further expansion would cause even more of this. The entertainment might be improved by less competition, but I doubt it.

The main concern I have is that the media are our main source for news. By allowing companies to own more news sources, we are limiting the diversity of opinion needed to make a truly effective democracy.

The smaller news sources provide the diversity necessary. At the present time they can compete, but the deregulation would almost assuridly force them out of business. This administration seems to want to squelch or belittle any opinion that does not agree with them, and this may be just another step to controlling the public opinion. I hope that this is not the case, but it certainly appears to be.

I implore you to strengthen diversity in the news by not deregulating the media industry.

Sincerely  
Roger Beermann